

David ROXBURGH, *et al.*
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. Cancelled.
2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16 in which the notification takes the form of a non-executable data file.
3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 2 in which the notification takes the form of a simple text file containing an extensible Markup Language, XML, document.
4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16 wherein the notification means is operable to run separate threads for controlling the forwarding of separate notifications to the client application.
5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein the notification means includes means for permitting each service provided by the first sub-system to specify the number of times which a notification is to be retried in the event of failure to deliver

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the notification and means for server retrying to deliver the notification up to the specified number of times in the event of failure to deliver the notification over the non-secure network.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16 wherein a single notification server receives notifications from plural services and forwards these to plural client application hosting sub-systems.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16,
wherein the first sub-system is a backend sub-system which provides services to the gateway, and
wherein the server sub-system acts as a trusted intermediary between each application hosting sub-system and the backend sub-system.

9-15. Cancelled.

16. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
programmed computer devices which execute program code to provide a first sub-system and a gateway for offering services provided by the first sub-system to one

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or more application hosting sub-systems via the gateway and a data communications network between said gateway and sub-systems;

the gateway and each application hosting sub-system being arranged to permit each application hosting sub-system to initiate a secure and authenticated connection from each application hosting sub-system to the gateway via a non-secure data network connection, and

the gateway being logically connected to the first sub-system to enable the services provided by the first sub-system to be provided to each application hosting sub-system via a secured and authenticated connection,

the gateway including notification means for initiating an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection to one or more of the application hosting sub-systems and transmitting over this or each such connection a notification for notifying said one or more of the application hosting sub-systems that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway when the notification means is requested so to do by any one of the services offered by the first sub-system.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of offering services provided by a first sub-system to one or more application hosting sub-systems via a gateway which includes a notification means for notifying one or more of the application hosting sub-systems that it should initiate a secure authorized connection with the gateway, the gateway and each application hosting sub-system being arranged to permit each application hosting sub-system to initiate a

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secure and authenticated connection from each application hosting sub-system to the gateway via a non-secure data network connection, and the gateway being logically connected to the first sub-system to enable the services provided by the first sub-system to be provided to each application hosting sub-system via a secured and authenticated connection, the method comprising :

sending a request from a service wishing to set up a secure and authenticated connection to an application hosting sub-system that the notification means send a notification to a respective application hosting sub-system to notify it that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway;

initiating from the notification means to the application hosting sub-system an unauthenticated and unencrypted connection and transmitting over this connection the notification for notifying said application hosting sub-system that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway;

causing the application hosting sub-system to set up a secure and authenticated connection with the gateway in response to receipt of the notification; and
communicating with the initiating service via said connection.

18. (Previously Presented) Computer readable storage media containing a program or suite of computer programs for controlling one or more computer processors to carry out the steps of claim 17 during execution of the computer program or suite of programs.